THE PORT FOLIO.

BY OLIVER OLDSCHOOL, ESQ.

"..... VARIOUS, THAT THE MIND
OF DESULTORY MAN, STUDIOUS OF CHANGE,
AND PLEAS'D WITH NOVELTY, MAY BE INDULG'D."
COWPER.

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ELOQUENCE OF THE AMERICAN SENATE.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

CONCLUSION OF MR. TRACY'S SPEECH,

On the amendment of the Constitution,

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

Friday, December 2, 1803,

I have already remarked upon the alteration made by the Senate, in the resolution passed by the house of representatives, changing the number five to three. But one addition made this morning, deserves attention; I mean that which authorizes the Vice-President to administer the government, in case neither the first nor the second constitutional electors effect a choice of President.

This is a new principle, and its operation is more uncertain, than that of any other part of the proposed amendment. Viewing it in one point of light, it may be thought to confer a new power upon the Senate; that of giving a President to the union. And it is said, that this part will recompense the small states, who have the ascendency in the Senate, for the injury inflicted by the other parts of the amendment. If it be true, that the last part restores all which the former parts have taken away from us, it is inconceivable, why any man can wish to pass a resolution, the parts of which thus mutually destroy each other. It is possible, that by the force of intrigue and faction, the electors may be induced so scatter their votes for both President and Vice-President, in such manner, as to present several candidates to the house for President, and two or more to the Senate for Vice-President. In which case the Senate might immediately choose or select a Vice-President. In this state of things, there is an opportunity afforded for an intrigue, of a very extensive and alarming nature. The Senate, I mean a majority of them, might wish that the man whom they had elected Vice-President should administer the government; and if the house could be prevented from agreeing, their wishes would be gratified. The facility of *preventing* over that of *producing* a choice is very obvious.

A bold address may be made to any member of the house, without wounding his pride, or offending his morality, to adhere to his candidate, and not change his vote so as to effect a choice. He can be told that there is no danger of leaving the United States without a President, as there is one already chosen to his hand, by the Senate; and this person may be more the object of his wishes, than any of the other candidates, his favourite excepted. In this process the Senate may give a President to the United States. But if the probability of such a process and such an event is increased by the amendment of this morning, it certainly cannot greatly recommend it. For myself, I wish for no alteration in the constitution, not even if its operation were directly in favour of the small states, more especially if such a favour is to be derived through a sort of double conspiracy of intrigue; in the first place to operate on the electors, and then on the house of representatives. It seems to me, that the small states had better be contented to enjoy the rights now secured to them by the constitution, which they can *honestly* do, rather than submit to a deprivation of their rights, for the sake of *dishonestly* obtaining a restoration of them. We may charitably and safely conclude that the majority do not intend, by this part of the amendment, to expose the country to such a scene of iniquity. And the uncertainty of its operations, alone, is, in my mind, a sufficient ground for rejection. However, the operation of this part of the amendment may appear in theory, as to other points, it seems to me, that in one point all must agree, and that is, when the house of representatives know that the United States will be left without an executive magistrate, in case they do not agree; this awful responsibility, will speak in a voice too loud for the hardihood of party entirely to disregard. And may I not suggest, without giving offence, that the operation of this very responsibility, has been proved, at least in some degree, in the proceedings of the last Presidential election?

If this last mentioned security be worth preserving, it follows of course, that the part of the amendment alluded to, ought not to pass.

There is another view of the constitution, which has a reference to the general subject before us: and that is, the caution exhibited with respect to the introduction of amendments. In an instrument so important, and containing many features new, if not to the world, at least to ourselves, although we might approve of its principles; yet experience might discover errors as to the mode devised for carrying those principles into effect. Hence, it was the part of wisdom and caution to provide for such alterations in practice, as would give the fairest operation to principles, without incurring the confusion and agitation incidental to a general convention. But lest the daring and restive spirit of innovation should injure or destroy, under the specious name of amendment, that same wisdom and caution have provided salutary checks.

'*Two thirds of both houses of congress shall deem it necessary* to propose amendments; and three-fourths of the state legislatures shall ratify such amendments; before they acquire validity. I speak now, sir, of the mode which has always been, and probably will be put in practice to obtain amendments. The other constitutional mode is equally guarded as to numbers, but, as it has no relation to the subject now in debate, may be laid aside. 'Two-thirds of both houses,' must, I think, on every fair principle of construction, mean two-thirds of all the members. The number of Senators is thirty-four; two-thirds being twenty-three. And as there is no representation from New-Jersey, the number of representatives is one hundred thirty-six; two-thirds being ninety-one.

My impressions are, sir, that this amendment cannot constitutionally be proposed to the state legislatures, unless it is agreed to, in the two houses, by those numbers, twenty-three, and ninety-one, respectively. This is a constitutional point, which, I am told, has never been agitated. But it is certainly worthy of attention. If the construction should prevail, that two-thirds of the members present, at any time, might propose amendments, the consequence is, that twelve Senators, being two-thirds of a quorum, and forty-eight representatives, being a similar two-thirds, might propose any, and the most important amendments. I am aware, sir, that it may be said, such propositions are not final, they may yet be ratified or rejected by the state legislatures. But the spirit of the constitution seems to require two-thirds of the nation, acting by its proper organs, to propose amendments; and that, in so interesting a subject as a constitutional alteration, a less number should have no authority.

The letter of the constitution will certainly justify this idea of its spirit. When two thirds of the Senate are requisite to consent and advise to a treaty, the words are 'two-thirds of the Senators *present*.' To convict on impeachment, 'two-thirds of the members *present*.' Yeas and nays are to be entered on the journal, 'at the desire of one-fifth of those *present*.' In the two first cases it is requisite to act immediately, whether two-thirds of the whole are present or not; then we see the expressions are clear, 'two-thirds' refers to the numbers *present*. Why so? Because, without these expressions, the reference would have been understood to the whole number of members. In the last case why add the word '*present*' to the one-fifth? Because, without that word, one-fifth of the whole would have been its meaning. In all other cases, when two-thirds are required, the spirit of the constitution certainly is, and the words seem to carry the meaning, 'two-thirds' of the whole numbers. It is said, 'that a majority of each *house* shall constitute a quorum to do business.' *House*, must in this case mean all the members. Two-thirds of both houses must, on the same principles, mean two-thirds of all the members of both. There is, I acknowledge, some obscurity, in the constitutional use of the word *house*, when either of the two branches of congress is described by it; but if the intention, and sense as well as words are attended to, I am forcibly led to a belief that two-thirds of all the members of both houses, are required to sanction propositions for amendments, and that this construction is most consistent with the wisdom and political skill of the convention. The construction for which I contend is analogous to the caution manifest in other parts of the constitution. It was well known to the convention, that amendments, if recommended or proposed by congress, would have an imposing influence with the state legislatures; and that in no possible instance, could more evil arise from indigested measures, than in the case of amendments, owing to the impossibility of clearly foreseeing their operation and effects on the general constitutional system. It was made requisite therefore to wait for the uninfluenced movement of two-thirds of the popular and federative representations of the nation. Whatever may be our opinion on the point now discussed, the

state legislatures have a constitutional right to judge of it for themselves, and to determine whether a proposition for an amendment is presented to them, with the sanction required, and if, in their opinions, the requisite numbers have not agreed to the proposition, they will guard the constitution, by refusing to ratify such amendment. My honourable friend from New-Hampshire (Mr. Plumer) has done such ample justice to this part of the subject, as to place it out of the reach of my assistance and beyond the need of any.

I am convinced, Mr. President, that the amendment now under consideration could not, in the Senate, obtain a constitutional majority, of two-thirds, nor even a simple majority, were it not for the influence of instructions. Some gentlemen have ingenuously said, that, until they gave this amendment the present particular examination, they had not contemplated the extent of its probable effects, and although they entertained doubts, yet they were induced by the instructions given them, to make the proposition to the legislatures, and let them decide for themselves.

Whatever may or can be said in favour of instructions generally, cannot be applicable to this case. For the purpose of obtaining amendments to the constitution, congress can only propose, and the state legislatures ratify. The duties are appropriate and distinct, and the uninfluenced independent act of both, requisite. The legislatures cannot ratify, till a proposal is made. This subject can be elucidated and enforced by familiar examples. The house of representatives alone, can originate a bill for raising revenue, but it cannot become a law without a concurrence of the Senate. Would not the advice and instruction of the Senate to the house, intimating our desire that they would originate and send to us for concurrence, a revenue bill, be thought improper, indelicate, and even unconstitutional? The President and the Senate can appoint certain officers, but they have distinct and appropriate agencies in the appointment. The President can nominate, but cannot appoint without the advice and consent of the Senate.

But the Senate cannot nominate, nor could their advice to the President, to make a nomination, be either binding or proper. The character of the several independent branches of our government, forming constitutional checks upon each other, cannot be exemplified more fully, than in the mode of producing amendments. And an interference of one independent body, upon the appropriate and distinct duties of another, can in no instance have a more prejudicial effect. Can it be thought then, either proper, or constitutional for the state legislatures to assume the power of instructing congress to *propose* to them a measure, when the power of proposing is not only not given to them. but given exclusively to congress? As well and with as much propriety might congress make a law, attempting to bind the state legislatures to ratify; as the legislatures, by instructions, bind congress to propose. In either case the check, which for obviously wise purposes, was introduced into the constitution, is totally destroyed. And we have not as much security against improper amendments, as we should have, if the power were exclusively vested in the state legislatures, and for this obvious reason, that in this mode of operation the responsibility, for the adoption of an improper amendment, is divided and destroyed. Is the sentiment correct, sir, that we shall be justifiable in sending forth this proposition to be considered by the state legislatures, if we believe it ought not to be ratified? What would be thought of the Senate, if they should pass a bill, and send it to the House of Representatives for concurrence, the provisions of which they disliked entirely, and wished not to be established? And can any sound distinction be made between such a measure, and the one now before us? In either case, the single act of the other body would be final; and in either case the people at large would be safer to have but one body in existence, to legislate, or make amendments; for all our agency in both cases would only tend to deceive and mislead, and in addition, to diminish, if not destroy, as has just been observed, the responsibility of the other body.

It has been said, sir, that the House of Representatives have twice given a sanction to this measure, and that their conduct, in this particular, adds weight to it. I wish to treat that honourable body with the highest respect; but I must deviate from the truth, were I to acknowledge that their conduct upon this amendment, has a tendency to convince me that they have a full understanding of the subject. Twice have they sent us a resolution, similar in its leading feature to that on your table, and made no provision that the person to be Vice-President, should be qualified for the highly responsible office, either in age, or citizenship. And for aught that they had guarded against, we might have had a man in the chief magistracy, from Morocco, a foreigner, who had not been in the country a month.—

Mr. President, it was suggested, in a former part of the debate, by a gentleman from S. Carolina, (Mr. Butler,) that the great states, or ruling party of the day, had brought forward this amendment, for the purpose of preventing the choice of a Federal Vice-President at the next election. And we are now put beyond the power of doubt, that this is, at least, one motive, by the observations of several of the majority, but especially by those of the gentleman from Virginia. He informs us, and I appreciate his frankness, that if the friends of this measure do not seize the present opportunity to pass it, the opportunity will never recur. He tells us plainly, that a minor faction ought to be discouraged, that all hopes or prospect of rising into consequence, much more of rising into office, should be crushed, and that this amendment is to produce a part of these beneficial effects; which amendment he compares to the bill which was introduced into the British parliament, to exclude a popish successor to the crown, commonly called the exclusion bill. Have the minority then, no right left, but the right to be *trampled* upon by the majority? This is identically the conduct, which is mentioned in the quotation which I have had the honour to make from the secretary of state; to which I ask leave to recur. 'The majority, by *trampling* on the rights of the minority, have produced factions and commotions, which, in republics, have more frequently than any other cause produced *despotism*.'

What avails it then, that this country has triumphed over the invasion and violence of one oppressor, if they must now be victims to the violence of thousands? Political death is denounced now; what denunciation will follow? It would be a useless affectation in us, to pretend to close our eyes upon either the cause or consequences of this measure.

The spirit of party has risen so high, at the present day, that it dares to attempt, what in milder times would be beyond the reach of calculation. To this overwhelming torrent every consideration must give way.

The gentleman is perfectly correct, in supposing that now is the only time to pass this resolution; there is a tide in the affairs of party most emphatically, and unless its height is taken, its acme improved, the shallows soon appear, and the present demon of party give place to a successor. A hope is undoubtedly now indulged that one great and dominant passion, will, like Aaron's rod, swallow up every other, and that the favourable moment can now be seized to crush the small states, and to obtain their own agency in the transaction. And when we recur to the history of former confederacies, and find the small states arrayed in conflict against each other, to fight, to suffer, and to die for the transient gratification of the great states; have we not some reason to fear the success of this measure?

In the Senate is the security of the small states; their feeble voice in the house of representatives is lost in the potent magic of numbers and wealth. Never until now has the force of the small states, which was provided by the constitution, and lodged in this federative body, as a weapon of self-defence, been able to bear upon this question. And will the small states, instead of defending their own interest, their existence, sacrifice them to a gust of momentary passion? to the short-lived gratification to party prejudice?

The resolution, if circumstances shall unequivocally demand it, can pass at the next or any future session of congress. But once passed, and its passage will operate like the grave; the sacrificed rights of the small states will be gone forever. Is it possible, sir, that any small state can submit to be a satellite in the state system, and revolve in a secondary orbit around a great state? Act in humble devotion to her will till her purposes are gratified, and then content herself to be thrown aside like a cast garment, an object of her own unceasing regret, and fit only for the hand of scorn to point its slow and moving finger at? Can the members of this Senate who represent the small states, quietly cross their hands and request the great states to bind them fast and to draw tight the ligature?

I am aware, sir, that I shall be accused of an attempt to excite the jealousy of the small states. Mr. President, I represent a small state, I feel the danger, and claim the constitutional right to sound the alarm. From the same altar on which the small states shall be immolated, will rise the smoke of sacrificed liberty: and despotism must be the dreadful successor.

It is the cause of my country and of humanity which I plead. And when one vast, overwhelming passion is in exercise, full well I know, sir, that no warning voice, no excitement but jealousy, has been found sufficiently active and energetic in its operation to dissolve the wizard spell, and force mankind to listen to argument. Jealousy, hateful in private life, has perhaps done more in the preservation of political rights than all the virtues united.

I have made the stand, sir, in the Senate, which I thought the importance of the subject demanded. If I fail here, there is hope of success with the state legislatures. If nothing can withstand the torrent there, I shall experience the satisfaction which is derived from a consciousness of having raised my feeble voice in defence of that constitution, which is not only the security of the small states, but the palladium of my country's rights; and shall console myself with the reflection that I have done my duty.

At half past 9 o'clock on Friday evening, 2d December, 1803, the question was put in the Senate, and the yeas and nays being called, were as follow:

YEAS:

Messrs. Anderson, Bailey, Baldwin, Bradley, Breckenridge, Brown, Cocke, Condit, Ellery, Franklin, Jackson,

Logan, Maclay, Nicholas, Potter, Israel Smith, John Smith, Samuel Smith, Stone, Taylor, Worthington, Wright.—22.

NAYS:

Messrs. Adams, Butler, Dayton, Hillhouse, O cot t Picke..g, Plumer, Tracy, Wells .White.—10.

The resolution was sent to the House of Representatives, and on Friday, the 9th day of December, the vote was taken upon it, and the yeas and nays being called, were:

YEAS:

Messrs. Nathaniel Macon, (*Speaker,*) Willis Alston, Junior, Nathaniel Alexander, Isaac Anderson, John Archer, David Bard, George Michael Bedinger, William Blackledge, John Boyle, Robert Brown, Joseph Bryan, William Butler, George W. Campbel, Levi Casey, Thomas Claiborne, Joseph Clay, John Clopton, Frederic Conrad, Jacob Crowningshield, Richard Cutts, John Dawson, William Dickson, John B. Earle, Peter Early, John W. Eppes, William Findley, John Fowler, James Gillespie, Peterson Goodwyn, Edwin Gray, Andrew Gregg, Samuel Hammond, John A. Hanna, Josiah Hasbrouck, Daniel Heister, Joseph Heister, James Holland, David Holmes, John G. Jackson, Walter Jones, William Kennedy, Nehemiah Knight, Michael Leib, John B. C. Lucas, Matthew Lyon, Andrew M'Cord, William M'Creery, David Meriwether, Samuel L. Mitchell, Nicholas R. Moore, Thomas Moore, Jeremiah Morrow, Anthony New, Thomas Newton, junr. Gideon Olin, Beriah Palmer, John Patterson, John Randolph, junr. Thomas M. Randolph, John Rea, (of Pennsylvania,) John Rhea, (of Tennessee) Jacob Richards, Cæsar A. Rodney, Erastus Root, Thomas Sammons, Thomas Sanford, Thompson J. Skinner, John Smilie, John Smith, (of New York.) Richard Stanford, Joseph Stanton, John Stewart, David Thomas, Philip R. Thompson, Abram Trigg, John Trigg, Isaac Van Horne, Daniel C. Verplank, Matthew Walton, John Whitehill Marmaduke Williams, Richard Winn, Joseph Winston, Thomas Wynns.

NAYS.

Messrs. Simeon Baldwin, Silas Betton, Phanuel Bishop, John Campbell, William Chamberlin, Martin Chittenden, Clifton Claggett, Matthew Clay, Manasseh Cutler, Samuel W. Dana, John Davenport, John Dennis, Thomas Dwight, James Elliott, William Eustis, Calvin Goddard, Gaylord Griswold, Roger Griswold, Seth Hastings, William Hoge, David Hough, Benjamin Huger, Samuel Hunt, Joseph Lewis, junr. Thomas Lewis, Henry W Livingston, Thomas Lowndes, Nahum Mitchell, Thoma Plater, Samuel D. Purviance, Ebenezer Seaver, John Cotton Smith, William Stedman, James Stephenson, Samuel Taggart, Benjamin Tallmage, Samuel Tenney, Samuel Thatcher, George Tibbits, Joseph B. Varnum, Peleg Wadsworth, Lemuel Williams.

Yeas 83. Nays 42.

The Speaker being called upon, voted in the affirmative.

So, the yeas were finally 84.

N. B. Two thirds of the whole—Senate, 23.
House of Representatives, 91.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

ORIGINAL BIOGRAPHY.

CONCLUSION OF THE LIFE OF PASCAL.

The last four years of his life were but a long disease, a state of continual and increasing langour, in which he manifested the fortitude and resignation of a genuine christian. It was not a new disorder, but a return of the complaints, to which he had been subject from his youth—aggravated by that carelessness of health, which a mistaken piety had now made a religious principle. The distemper came on by a violent tooth-ache, which deprived him altogether of sleep.—Yet even in this condition, that perpetual motion of intellect, that incessant activity of mind, which is the most decisive characteristic of genius, did not forsake him. About twenty years before, father Mersenne, an eminent mathematician had published a problem for solution, which exercised the ingenuity of all the most illustrious men of the age, distinguished in that branch of science. He called it the problem of the *Roulette*, or wheel. The question was to ascertain the curve line, described in the air, by a nail in the circumference of a rolling wheel, from the point of its contact with the ground, until after a complete revolution of the wheel it comes to the ground again. The problem had remained unanswered, though in the meantime it had been a subject of investigation and of contest between such men as, Descartes, Roberval, Fermat, Baugrant, Wren, Torricelli and others alike of distinguished note. In the agonies of the tooth-ache, Pascal discovered and settled the demonstration of this curve and its principal properties. His friend, the Duke de Roannés, to whom he communicated his success, advised him to make use of it as an argument in favour of that religious cause, so near his heart, by proving to the world, that the humble submission of his *faith*, was not for the want of powers to advance as far in demon tration, as any of the philosophical infidels. Pascal therefore, published the problem anew, and offered a prize of sixty pistoles, to any person who within eighteen months, should give the solution. None however appeared; and in 1658, he applied the money, to defray the publication of a small treatise containing his own demonstration. It was published under the name of *Amos d 'Ettonville*, the anagram, of *Louis de Montalte;* and it is now extremely scarce, only one hundred and twenty copies having been printed. Its title was *Treatise of the Roulette.* But the curve has since obtained, and is now known by the name of the Cycloid. Its properties were farther investigated afterwards by Huyghens, Wallis, Leibnitz, and Bernouilli, the former of whom applied some of its principles to the improvement of clocks.

The solution of the problem had relieved Pascal from his tooth-ache, but the disorders from which it arose were such as 'not poppy, nor mandragora, nor all the drowsy syrups of the East, could medicine to rest.' He continued languishing, and devoting more and more of his time to relics, beads, and practices of devotion, until the 19th of August 1662, when he expired, at the age of thirty-nine years and two months. He was buried in the church of St. Stephen, at Paris, that being the parish in which he resided at the time of his decease.

Some years after his death, the loose hints, which he had occasionally thrown upon paper, to be used in the great work, which he did not live to accomplish, were published under the title of 'Thoughts of Mr. Pascal.' They were attacked by Voltaire, a man more bigotted in infidelity, than ever Pascal was in religion. As a specimen of the manner which Voltaire employed in the criticism, I shall give one example, in which the original thought, and the remark of the censor are peculiarly characteristic of their respective authors.

'Whenever (says Pascal) a proposition seems inconceivable, it should not be denied, on that account alone; examine its reverse, and if that be found manifestly false, you may affirm the proposition, however incomprehensible.'

Here is a rule, which must be of frequent use to every sincere inquirer after truth; not that it can lead to any material discovery, which could remain concealed without it; but because it gives a general method of setting any given and questionable proposition in a new point of view; and as different arguments, have the strongest impression upon different minds, there can be nothing more important in the art of reasoning, than to multiply the modifications and different aspects, under which a proposition may be placed.

Now what think you is Voltaire's remark, on this ingenious and profound idea?

'It seems to me, that it is evident that the two contraries may both be false. For instance, an ox *flies* to the southward with wings—an ox *flies* to the northward without wings—twenty thousand angels yesterday *slew* twenty thousand men—twenty thousand men yesterday *slew* twenty thousand angels. These propositions are evidently false.'

One would think it unnecessary to tell a child of the most ordinary capacity, that to affirm that an ox flies to the northward without wings, is not the reverse of affirming, that an ox flies to the southward with wings. It is the very same proposition with different accessary circumstances. The reverse would be the same in both cases. An ox did not fly, which would be manifestly true. The same observation applies to the other instance adduced of angels and men.

Voltaire had no reasoning powers, and was utterly incapable of meeting a logician like Pascal, face to face. But he had much wit, and could easily build a sarcasm upon a blunder. His common practice was, to make buffoonery, serve the purpose of argument. Yet it needs some indulgence to discover even wit, in his flying oxen. With or without wings, they are still the images of dulness, and their creation is not more creditable to their author's imagination, than to his judgment.

I shall conclude this sketch of Pascal's life, with the character given of him by La Harpe, in his *Lyceum.*

'A genius, no less exalted than Descartes, in speculation, and vigorous as Bossuet, in style, Pascal, employed both those powers in combating infidelity, which had followed in the train of calvinism, and which, though concealed, and without influence, even then gave concern to the zealous friends of christianity. He first attacked those miserable casuists, who appear indeed, to have been sincere in their absurdities, but who nevertheless had disgraced religion, by rendering her as far as was in their power, accessary to those ridiculous scholastic subtleties, which had filled their books with the most pernicious errors. Those renowned Provincial Letters therefore, which gave them the stroke of death, may be laid to the account of true philosophy. Had these letters been only a book of controversy, they would have met the fate common to so many others, and been forgotten. Had they possessed only the merit of being written with a purity of style, at that period unexampled, they would be remembered only for the service they rendered to the language. But the talent of pleasantry, uniting with that of eloquence, and the ingenious choice of a dramatic form, by means of which he makes serious personages appear with so much humour and drollery, raising the smile of sport amidst the gravest and dryest of materials, made it impossible for this excellent polemic work, to pass away with the particular interests which at first secured its splendid success.

'A much more exalted conception however, was that of the great work, which he did but purpose, and had not time to accomplish, in which he intended to have proved to demonstration, the necessity and the truth of revelation; by which those who know any thing of language, or of religion, will not understand that he ever thought of explaining the mysteries by a theory merely human; which would be to build up reason on the ruins of faith. Pascal was above an inconsistency so contrary to christianity; he meant only to demonstrate the motives of credibility, founded upon the certainty of facts and of consequences, in such a manner that reason could have nothing to oppose against it, but must be forced to confess that what God has been pleased to make us know, is sufficient to induce our belief of that which he has chosen to conceal. This plan is perfectly philosophical, perfectly practicable, and if we judge only by the fragments he left, imperfectly as they have come to us, no man was

better qualified to accomplish it than Pascal. The connection of the ideas is necessarily lost; so that one of the main pillars with regard to the object of the work is wanting; but that of the thought and expression were of itself sufficient to immortalize the writer. *Ex ungue leonem;* you perceive the lion's claws: this may be said at every page of this singular collection, published after the death of Pascal, under the title of his *thoughts*. Voltaire has combated some of them, with very bad reasoning, and with dishonest misconstruction. The very project of attack was unfair, and uncandid. How can a man reconcile himself to the meanness of formal argument, against the mere detached and desultory first thoughts of an author, thrown upon paper only for the purpose of a memorandum, to be afterwards connected with the chain of his reasoning. Voltaire, forsooth, must go, and dash himself against a scaffolding. How much more unsuccessful, must he have been, against the building itself.'

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

Extracts of letters received from an American traveller, in Europe, in the year 1800.

Bale, in Switzerlaud, 5. Sep. 1800.

My ast letter was from Strasburg; which place my fellow-traveller and I left yesterday morning, and arrived at night at Colmar, without any occurrence of consequence.—Colmar is a small walled town, and capital of the department of the Upper Rhine: It is not far from the lofty hills, or rather mountains of Alsace, and distant some leagues from the Rhine. By setting off early this morning, we were enabled to breakfast at Mulhausen, a very neat small town in alliance with the Swiss Cantons, and almost insulated by the dapartment of the Upper Rhine. It is a place of some antiquity, and its history is very interesting. The surrounding country is beautiful and well cultivated. The hills particularly, which are covered with vines, are planted with low trees, whose round bushy tops give them, when in number, much the appearance of a Jersey orchard. The plains are covered with grain.

We came to Basle to dinner, through a country which increased in beauty as we approached the Rhine, whose opposite bank was spotted with white cottages, and with villages peeping out of every valley.—The high hills near the Rhine, were cultivated to the top, and nature really seemed to smile on every side.

At a small village called *Bourg-libre*, we passed the barrier which separates the Swiss from the French Republic, and escaped the trouble of having our baggage examined, by the politeness of the officer, who declined doing it, on our assurance that our trunks contained nothing but our apparel. A mile and a half further, we came to the Swiss guard, which also permitted us to pass, without examination.

We put up at the *Three Kings*, an excellent and celebrated Inn, whose walls are washed by the waters of the Rnie, which, at this place, is a broad and rapid stream. From the windows of the dining room, there is a noble view of the river, the *Petit Basle*, (as that part of the city on the opposite bank, is called) the wooden bridge, 600 feet long, and the mountains, which begin here to shut in the river.—We also see about a league below the town, the strong little fortress of Hunninguen, a place of importance enough, to have cost the Austrians, this war, a siege of some trouble.

6. *September*. One of the gentlemen to whom we had letters, has been very polite in making us acquainted with the chief curiosities of this place.—We, as usual, first ascended the steeple of the cathedral, to form a correct idea of the situation of Basle, and the surrounding country. It is astonishing how broad the Rhine is, even at this distance from the sea, to which it is also navigable, even for the stage-boats that come up to Cologne.

In the body of the church, we saw the spot where the great Erasmus is buried; a simple flat stone, placed against a pillar of the aisle, is all the monument erected to this celebrated genius.—There are a variety of other monuments, and in the choir, is the tomb of a countess of Hapsbourg, from which ancient family, the present House of Austria derives its descent.

The inhabitants of Basle, have been somewhat alarmed, for these two days past, by an insurrection of the peasants of a few villages, about three leagues off. It appears, that on the revolution taking place, in this Canton, they were promised, that an oppressive tax or contribution, they were accustomed to pay, should cease to be levied, on condition of their acquiescing in the change. This was agreed to on their part; but the present government having again called upon them, for the payment of the accustomed tax, they refused it, and some soldiers were sent, to enforce their compliance with the demand; who, it is said, behaved ill, and even shot some of the most refractory.—This enraged the peasants, to such a degree, that they attacked the soldiers, with guns, swords, staves, &c. and killed some of them. The Prefect of Basle, went to explain the matter to the procurateur; but he no sooner began his harangue, than he was fired upon, and obliged to fly. A body of Swiss soldiers were sent against them, but the peasants were so strong, that they beat them away; indeed, it was reported, that they were coming, last night, to Basle:—to day, however, all is quiet, though the insurgents have not dispersed, being still obstinate in claiming the performance of the promise given them.—This business has made a considerable noise here today; and I have seen nothing but soldiers parading the streets, and more than once, I have heard the trumpet calling to arms. The inhabitants of Basle, regret this revolt very much, as they are afraid they will find it necessary to call in French troops, to reduce the peasants to obedience: which is a circumstance much disliked, as they would only add to the number they are compelled already to quarter and support.

We amused ourselves, the first evening we arrived here, with looking at the singular dresses of the peasants, who came into the town to church, it being Sunday. I never in my life saw such odd figures. I believe it will not be possible for me to describe them satisfactorily, though I will attempt it.—The women wear their hair close to the head, and some have two long plaits behind, to which are tied two black ribbons, that reach the ground; others have a close cap of worked silk and muslin, trimmed with gold or silver lace, and ornamented with gaudy-coloured ribbon.—On their waist, they have a short close corset, which fits their shape, and is commonly of red, yellow, or other light coloured silk or worsted stuff, while their petticoats are striped, and scarcely reach to the calf of the leg. But, really, it is scarcely possible to convey an idea of these strange dresses, as they vary much; they are, however, singularly picturesque. I can only say, that they are infinitely more curious and fantastic, than any thing I saw o the North Hollanders, or West Frieslanders, who I thought, hitherto, had carried eccentricity of dress to its highest pitch.

We took notice, this morning, of some criminals chained, two by two, to a small cart, filled with dirt, which they had collected in the streets. This mode of punishment, reminded me of ours, the wheel-barrow, both of which, I conceive not founded upon the true principles of reformation, and rather tend to harden, than reclaim the bad members of society.

(*To be continued.*)

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

ORIGINAL LETTERS

FROM DR. FRANKLIN, SILAS DEANE, ARTHUR LEE, &c.

[Continued.]

Passy, April 23, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I am much pleased with the account you give me, of the disposition with which the proposals, from the Empress of Russia have been received, and desire to be informed from time to time, of the progress of that interesting business.

I shall be glad to hear of your reconciliation with the————because a continuance of your difference, will be extremely inconvenient. Permit me to tell you frankly, what I formerly hinted to you, that I apprehend you suffer yourself too easily to be led into personal prejudices, by interested people, who would engross all our confidence to themselves. From this source have arisen, I imagine, the charges and suspicions you have insinuated to me, against several who have always declared a friendship for us in Holland. It is right that you should have an opportunity of giving the *Carte du Pays* to Mr. Laurens, when he arrives in Holland. But if in order to serve your particular friends, you fill his head with these prejudices, you will hurt him and them, and perhaps yourself. There does not appear to me, the least probability in your supposition, that the————is an enemy to America.

Here has been with me a gentleman from Holland, who was charged, as he said, with a verbal commission from divers cities, to inquire whether it was true, that Amsterdam had, as they heard, made a treaty of commerce with the United States, and to express in that case, their willingness to enter into a similar treaty. Do you know any thing of this? What is become or likely to become, of the plan of treaty, formerly under consideration? By a letter from Middlebourg, to which the inclosed is an answer, a cargo seized and sent to America, as English property, is reclaimed, partly on the supposition that free ships, make free goods: They ought to do so between England and Holland, because there is a treaty which stipulates it; but there being yet no treaty between Holland and America, to that purpose, I apprehend that the goods being declared by the captain, to be English, a neutral ship will not protect them, the law of nations governing in this case, as it did before the treaty above mentioned. Tell me if you please, your opinion.

With sincere esteem, and affection,
I am ever, dear Sir, your most
obedient and most humble
servant.
B. FRANKLIN.

M. Dumas.

—

Paris, Hotel de Valois Rue de Richelieu, May 21, 1780.

Sir,

His excellency Dr. Franklin, lent me the inclosed letter, from Sir Henry Clinton, to Lord George Germain, upon condition, that I would send a copy of it to you. A privateer from Boston, had the good fortune to seize the packet bound to London, and the mail, in which among others, this letter was found. It was sent from Boston to Philadelphia, and there published in a newspaper of the 8th of April, one of these papers arrived, within a few days at L'Orient, in a vessel from Philadelphia.

It is a pity but it should be published in every newspaper in the world, in an opposite column, to a late speech of Lord George Germain, in the House of Commons, as his document in support of his assertions.

I have the honour to be, with
great respect, Sir, your most
obedient and humble servant.
JOHN ADAMS.

M. Dumas.

—

Aranguel, June 5, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I received your two letters, of the 4th and 11th of this Month, and am sorry to find that the consequences of the intercepted letter, still make you uneasy. Believe me, the personage you allude to, will never take any pains to injure you beyond sea; and although to save appearances with the person he protects, he may still keep upon an appearance of resentment; be assured it will go no further. I hope your correspondence with Mr. W. L. at Brussels hath finished; take the advice of a young man, derived from the example of an old sage, whom you respect, never trust yourself on paper, to one that is not your friend, but when you cannot help it, and then as cautiously as possible. If you have not written to Congress on that subject, I advise you not to write. That body hath too much to attend to, to be interrupted, by private disputes. If you have a paper containing the intelligence from America, mentioned by Mr. Lee, I shall be obliged to you for it. I do assure you, I have never heard from any one on the subject of the intercepted letter, except Dr. F—n, and when I do hear, I will immediately inform you. Let it therefore sleep in peace for the present. I am obliged to you for your communication from the P—y, cultivate him, he is of much more consequence to us both at present, than the other, whose interest and duty must make him coincide with us in conduct, and if I am not deceived, he acts also from inclination. If G. B. doth not recede from her present resolutions, with respect to your states, and R—ssa is in earnest to adhere to its declaration; the first named country will be involved with all these nations who accede to the invitation of the latter. Though I am afraid the neutral nations, regard the war with satisfaction, as it weakens the greatest maritime powers, and adds to their own trade, and future respectability. I would have you insinuate to the P—y, the glory that he might acquire by suggesting the idea of fixing the independence of America, and putting an end to destructive war, by means of the neutral powers, could they be prevailed on to show a disposition to do this, I am persuaded that it would have a great effect towards accelerating the peace. Nothing but insanity can account for the conduct of the King of G. B. in not endeavouring to extricate himself from this business, unless he hath secret reasons for hope of which, we are ignorant. He, I know is the primum mobile of all our misfortunes. The characters you give me of your ministers here, hath given me much satisfaction. If you will take the trouble of giving me in each letter a slight sketch, of the characters of the most eminent members in your States, and in their public employments, I shall be a little more au fait in your affairs. I wrote to Mr. De Neufville, in answer to his first to me, and have since received one of the 9th of May. Mr. Jay hath answered the one he received from the same gentleman, and we both join in intreating you to thank them for their friendly and polite offers of service. We are so far from the centre of correspondence, that we seldom have it in our power to give you or them any news. Mr. Laurence was still in America, the 1st of March, as I have been informed. Adieu.

Yours, &c.
W. C.

P. S. Direct Messrs. De Neufville and Co. to address their letters, and yours, under cover to some banker of their correspondence, with instructions, either to send the letters to the house of Mr. Jay, Caviera, St. Fransisco, Madrid, or to keep them till called for.

—

Passy, June 5, 1780.

Dear Sir,

The gentleman, whose name you wished to know, in one of your late letters, is Mr. Westhuysen, Echerin and Conveiller de la Ville de Harlem. I shall probably send an order to that place, for some of the types, of which you have sent me the prices, before I leave Europe. I think them very good, and not dear. A Dutch ship belonging to Messrs. Little, Dale, and Co. of Rotterdam, being brought into France, as having an English cargo on board. I have followed your opinion, with regard to the condemnation of the cargo, which I think the more right, as the English have in the West Indies confiscated several of our cargoes, found in Dutch ships. But, to shew respect to the declaration of the Empress of Russia, I have written to the owners of our privateers, a letter of which I enclose a copy, together with a copy of the judgment, for your use, if you hear of any complaint. I approve much of the principles of the confederacy, of the neutral powers, and am not only for respecting the ships as the house of a friend, containing the goods of an enemy, but I even wish for the sake of humanity, that the law of nations may be farther improved, by determining that even in time of war, all those kinds of people, who are employed in procuring subsistence for the species, or in exchanging the necessaries or conveniences of life, which is for the common benefit of mankind; such as husbandmen on their lands, fishermen in their barques, and traders in unarmed vessels, shall be permitted to prosecute their several innocent and useful employments, without interruption, or molestation, and nothing taken from them, even when wanted by an enemy, but in paying a fair price for the same.

I think you have done well to print the letter of Clinton; for though I have myself had suspicions, whether some parts of it were really written by him, yet I have no doubt of the facts stated, and think the piece valuable, as giving a true account of the state of British and American affairs, in that quarter. On the whole, it has the appearance of a letter written by a General, who did not approve of the expedition he was sent upon; who had no opinion of the judgment of these who drew up his instructions; who had observed that preceding commanders, Gage, Burgoyne, Keppel, and the Howes had all been censured by the ministers, for having unsuccessfully attempted to execute injudicious instructions, with unequal force, and he therefore wrote such a letter, not merely to give the information contained in it, but to be produced in his vindication, when he might be recalled, and his want of success, charged upon him as a crime, though in truth owing to the folly of the ministers, who had ordered him on impracticable projects, and persisted in them notwithstanding his faithful informations, without furnishing the necessary number of troops, he had demanded. In this view much of the letter may be accounted for, without supposing it fictitious; and therefore, if not genuine, it is ingeniously written: But you will easily conceive, that if the state of public facts it contains, were known in America to be false, such a publication there would have been absurd and of no possible use to the cause of the country. I have written to Mr. Neufville, concerning the bills you mention. I have no orders or advice about them, know nothing of them, and therefore cannot prudently meddle with them, especially as the funds in my power are not more than sufficient to answer the Congress bills for interest, and other inevitable demands. He desired to know whether I would engage to reimburse him, if he should accept and pay them; but as I know not the amount of them, I cannot enter into any such engagement; for though if they are genuine Congress bills, I am persuaded all possible care will be taken by Congress, to provide for their punctual payment; yet there are so many accidents by which remittances are delayed, or intercepted in the time of war, that I dare not hazard for these new bills, the possibility of being rendered unable to pay the others.

With great esteem, I am, dear
Sir, your most obedient and
humble servant,
B. FRANKLIN.

P. S. I cannot prescribe as you desire, any thing relating to your affair with 62, your own judgment ought to guide you. I shall be careful to furnish you early with any good news we may receive. If the 732, cannot be immediately made, it may with prudence come on by degrees.

(The copy of the judgment will be sent by next post.)

[To be continued.]

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

H. CARITAT proposing to sell the Library of his *Literary Room*, New York, solicits the attention of gentlemen of affluence and literature, to the following ADVERTISEMENT. The Books of which this Collection consists, have been selected with great care and attention; and the proprietor has spared neither trouble nor expense, to render it as complete as possible, by the purchase of many scarce and valuable works, in high estimation; but rarely, from the difficulty of obtaining them, or the expensiveness of the cost, imported into this country. When last in Europe, he devoted a considerable portion of his time in forming this Collection; in which are many works that, from their scarcity would not have been obtained, but from repeated applications by him in person; and he can with confidence aver, what is rarely the case in extensive collections, that there are very few, if any, among the Books constituting this Library, but what would be deemed Works of merit in their respective branches; the utmost previous attention having been paid, where the work was not well known, to obtain from the different Reviews, and other literary sources, the most correct opinion of it. A Collection of this kind must be an object well worthy the attention of, and particularly interesting to those gentlemen who are solicitous of forming a complete Library; as the delays and difficulties attending the procuring a number of valuable Works, for that purpose in Europe, except the person is himself on the spot, are frequently of a nature almost to discourage the attempt.

Among the Books offered for sale, under the article of Natural History, will be found a greater collection of works of that description, than probably are contained in any Library in the United States. The following are a part, viz. Smellie's Buffon, Turton's Linnæus, Curtis's valuable and elegant Publication, the Botanical

Magazine, 12 volumes, the prints finely coloured; a work not solely confined to Natural History, but containing an account of whatever is new and curious in the Arts and Sciences; a variety of entertaining Anecdotes, and original Philosophical Essays: the splendid Work of Dr. Shaw, the naturalist's Miscellany, containing Notes, with Descriptions and plates of whatever is most rare, singular, and beautiful, in the various departments of Nature, accurately delineated and faithfully coloured; Donovan's Insects of China in quarto, unquestionably the most beautiful work on Entomology, hitherto published, printed on fine paper, and the subjects most accurately and splendidly coloured: Cramer's Papillons Exotiques, in 4to. bound in morocco, the plates beautifully illuminated.

In Oriental Literature, the works of Sir Wm. Jones, the Institutes of Timur; Colebrook's Digest of the Hindoo Laws; Ouseley's Persian Miscellanies; Maurice's Indian Antiquities, with Dow's, and Orme's Histories of Hindostan; Scott's, of the Deccan, Hamilton's of the Rohillas; that of the reign of Shah Aulum; D' Ohsson of the Religion, Manners, Literature, and Jurisprudence of the Ottoman Empire, a very valuable work; with Ferdousi's Historical Poem; Translations of several very ancient Indian Poems, and the best Travels through the East; from as complete a Library of Eastern History as can be found in the English language. In History, in general, the collection is as full as it could be rendered, by the best modern historians, and the most approved versions of the ancients; of the latter of which, several are rendered extremely valuable by their scarcity and the difficulty of procuring them.

The Voyages and Travels include those of every modern traveller of reputation, from the arctic to the antarctic circle; among which are those of Park, Brown, Horneman and Barrow, in Africa; Symes, Turner, Macartney, Forster, &c. in Asia; Acerbi, in Lapland and Norway; the celebrated Travels of Professor Pallas, through Siberia, and the Northern Parts of the Russian Empire, in French, with a volume of Charts and Plates; and a more recent Publication in English, of the same author, of Travels through the Southern Parts of that vast Territory.

In the Belles Lettres and Poetry, the Collection is such as must render it highly interesting to the lovers of elegant Literature, and the friends of the Muses; together with Anderson's Edition of the British Poets, in 13 vols. imperial 8vo. and many of the best modern English Poems and Dramatic Works: it contains the most elegant Versions, of the Italian, French Portuguese, and German Poets.

To the Amateurs of Painting and the Antiquarian, Cooke's Hogarth, being a new impression of the Prints of that celebrated master, from engravings executed from the original designs, and of the same size, and accompanied with an explanatory volume; and an account of the Remains of Antiquity found in the Ruins of Herculaneum, with plates of the subjects which will stamp an additional value on this Collection.

The above Library will be sold on very reasonable terms, and at a small advance from the sterling cost, and will, if a sufficient number of gentlemen should unite in the purchase, be divided into lots for the accommodation of the purchasers.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

HERTFORD ASSIZES, JUNE 26.

THE RIGHT OF WATER.

STRUTT V. BOVINGTON

The plaintiff in this action is a miller near Rickmansworth; the defendant a farmer in the same neighbourhood. It appeared that the plaintiff and his ancestors had enjoyed the mills in question for several centuries past, which were turned by a stream issuing from the rivers Game and Colne; but with a view to accommodate the farmers adjacent, a custom had grown into established use, of diverting the waters which supplied the mill-stream on Saturday night till the Monday morning, for the purpose of flooding their meadow land. The defendant, however, was not content with this indulgence, and had let out the waters in so considerable a way as to prevent at times the working of the mills. The plaintiff's father had recovered of the defendant near twenty years ago for a similar infringement of his right, and the diversion of the waters was put an end to. The present plaintiff, after proving that the waters had been drawn off from his mills, proposed giving the written evidence of Mr. Charles Macklin, the late comedian, (who was examined on the first trial) to establish the ancient right of water vested in the occupiers of the mills alluded to.

Mr. Serjeant Best objected to the evidence, and insisted that it could not be legally given.

Lord Ellenborough observed that the grievance complained of was precisely the same as on the former trial, and therefore thought the evidence of Mr. Macklin might be received in the same way as a person who might have been examined upon interrogatories.

Mr. Garrow said, he would put an end to all controversy, and examine a gentleman then in court, to what Mr. Macklin had said in the former trial, he having been present at the time, and paying particular attention to the evidence.

Mr. Serjeant Best had no objections to hearing Mr. Macklin's ghost.

Mr. John Bayley was then put to the bar, who stated to his Lordship and the Jury, that he had heard Mr. Macklin give his evidence, and that it was of so whimsical an import that he could repeat it *verbatim*.—Mr. Macklin, at the trial of 1786 spoke as follow:—'About fifty years ago I was in the habit of visiting my friend Mr. Fleetwood, who was the proprietor of one of the theatres, and had a house in the neighbourhood of Mr. Strutt's mills, consequently I had an opportunity of knowing the waters alluded to. At that time there was no such thing as watering the meadows by a diversion of the stream. My friend Fleetwood felt the loss, as he wished to get a reservoir into his garden; but the miller, Mr. Strutt, would not consent to his drawing off the water; I undertook to bring the miller about, and said to my friend, 'You must invite the miller to dinner, and we'll talk the matter over.'—My friend did so, and the miller was regaled most handsomely. Having previously been informed that the miller was fond of smoking, when the cloth was removed, I proposed that we should adjourn to the smoking room, and taste Mr. Fleetwoods's excellent tap of fine Stafford shire ale; the miller agreed, and we adjourned accordingly. For a time *I smoked the miller*, till at last the miller *smoked me*, and flatly said, he would not consent to have his water diverted. Determined not to give up the pursuit, the miller was invited to a second dinner of *turtle*, which agreed with his taste so well, that notwithstanding he was before so tenacious of his water, he was brought to consent that my friend should divert a *little* of the stream to water his garden, the miller observing at the time that Mr. Fleetwood must not forget that he, the miller, was the *river god* in those waters, and could withhold it whenever he thought proper.'

The plaintiff's right was fully ascertained in other respects, and a verdict taken for one shilling damages, the defendant agreeing to stop up certain sluices at his own expense, and preventing waste in future.

MISCELLANEOUS PARAGRAPHS.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

From private sources, we learn that a challenge has been sent by a member of Congress to one of the heads of department, in consequence of some transaction, supposed injurious to the character of the former, having taking place.—We learn that the offer was declined.—The particulars, as is usual on such occasions, will probably before long transpire. As the character of the administration is not of a very *martial* complexion, it is thought the affair will be *amicably* settled.

[*Farmer's Museum.*

—

A democratic paper, called the *Hornet*, printed in Frederic town, (Md.) reached us this week. A *Bee* is also published at Hudson. They are of a very different *genus* from those insects described by naturalists, their stings being perfectly *harmless*.

[ib.

—

THE TEAR.

On beds of snow the moonbeam slept,
And chilly was the midnight gloom,
When, by the damp grove, Ellen wept,
Sweet maid! it was her lover's tomb.

A warm tear gush'd, the wintry air
Congeal'd it, as it flow'd away;
All night it lay an ice drop there,
At morn, it glitter'd in the ray.

An angel, wandering from the sphere,
Who saw this bright, this frozen gem,
To dew-ey'd pity brought the tear,
And hung it on her diadem.

—

Why is Addison still the first of our essayists? He has, sometimes, been excelled in criticisms more philosophical, in topics more interesting, and in diction more coloured. But there is a *personal charm* in *the character* he has assumed, in his Periodical Miscellanies, which is felt, with such a gentle force, that we scarcely advert to it. He has painted forth his little humours, and his individual feelings. Johnson and Hawkesworth, we receive with respect, and we dismiss with awe: we come from their writings as from public lectures, and from Addison's, as from private conversations.

—

In one of the British journals, we read, with great satisfaction, that a spirited emigrant among the faithful band of French royalists, in England, has gallantly defended his friends, and most *contemptuously* designated his foe.

Monsieur Tinceau, has published an "Apologie des Royalistes Emigres contre le libel diffamatoire, publie' sous le nom d'amnistie, par le *nomme'* Napoleone Buonaparte, *alias*, Buonaparte'e d'Ajacio *soi disant*, Consul de France.

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* This phrase, like that of *cette homme la*, may be described as the strongest *tense* in the contemptuous *mode* of French expression. If a mere English reader wish to have an adequate idea of its sarcastic import, we refer him to Dr. JOHNSON, who speaks of *one* Mrs. Macauley, and to WHITLOCK, who, with the lofty pride of a courtier of the first CHARLES, talks of one Milton, a blind man, and republican.

The Chevalier de Bilang, a Swede, has invented a machine, by means of which, a person may swim, or least direct himself on the water, without the least danger. The king of Sweden has granted the inventor, a gratuity of two thousand rix dollars, and the exclusive privilege of selling his machine, during twenty-five years,

—

A composition has been recently discovered, in France, that will effectually prevent iron, steel, &c. from rusting. This method consists in mixing with fat, oil, varnish, four-fifths of well-rectified spirits of turpentine. The varnish is to be applied, by means of a sponge. Articles varnished in this manner, will retain their metallic brilliancy, and never contract any sort of rust. It may be applicable to copper, and to the preservation of philosophical instruments, which, by being brought into contact with water, are liable to lose their splendor, and to become tarnished.

—

M. Buschenderf has invented a press for packing all kinds of goods with expedition. It is cheap, easily worked, occupies little room, and is calculated to save the expense of metal vices, which are apt to swell with humidity; the operation being performed by the action of a lever, the power of which, may be easily augmented.

—

TO MISS—, WEEPING.

Oh! if your tears are given to care,
If real woe distress your peace,
Come to my bosom, weeping fair,
And I will bid your weeping cease.

But, if with fancy's vision'd fears,
With dreams of woe your bosom thrill;
You look so lovely in your tears,
That I must bid you drop them still.

—

INSCRIPTION ON A JUTTING STONE, OVER A SPRING.

This sycamore, oft musical with bees,
(Such tents the patriarchs lov'd) O long unharm'd
May all its darksome boughs o'ercanopy
The small round bason, which this jutting stone
Keeps pure from falling leaves! still may this spring
Quietly, as a sleeping infant's breath,
Send up cold water for the traveller
With soft and even pulse! Nor even cease
On tiny cone of sand its noiseless dance,
That at the bottom, like a fairy's page,
As merry, and no taller, dances still,
Nor wrinkles the smooth surface of the fount!
Here coolness dwell, and twilight Here is moss,
A soft seat, and a deep and ample shade,
Thou may'st toil far, and find no second tree.
Here, stranger, drink! Here rest! And, if thy heart
Be innocent, here too may'st thou renew
Thy spirits, list'ning to these gentle sounds,
The passing gale, or ever murm'ring bees.

—

ROSSTREVOR.

All you, who in scenes of wild grandeur delight,
Where nature and art both together endeavour
To furnish a treat for the traveller's sight—
Repair to the shore of romantic Rosstrevor.

Here are mountains, whose summits the skies proudly pierce,
While deep winding vallies their broad bases sever:
Even Procis, that classical region of verse,
The Muses now own, cou'd boast nought like Rosstrevor.

Arcadia! thy shades come my fancy across,
Where Pan, on his pipe, us'd so softly to quaver,
As I wander among the plantations of Ross,
And hear the sweet notes of the nymphs of Rosstrevor.

In verdure, the vales here with Tempe may vie;
Purest streams through their bosom run murmuring ever,
Yielding shepherds and flocks an unfailing supply,
When drought has drank up all those of Rosstrevor.

Old Neptune, around his whole briny domain,
Ne'er trac'd out a lovelier landscape—no, never!
On the banks of the Tiber, the Thames, or the Seine,
Taste finds no retreat to compare with Rosstrevor.

Tis the fav'rite abode of the Goddess of Health;
From its precincts fly sickness, infection and fever;
Youth, beauty, and fashion, age, wisdom, and wealth,
Resort to the life-cheering shores of Rosstrevor.

Methinks now some saturnine miser I hear,
With a sneer, cry, 'All this, to be sure, 's very clever,
But diet and lodging, I'm told, there are dear;'—
Stay at home, wretch! and starve—let me feast at Rosstrevor.

—

AN ADDRESS TO HEALTH.

Hail to thee, Goddess of the sprightly train!
Source of all ease, and antidote to pain:
Whether thou wand'rest on the northern hills,
Or in the vallies dwells't by purling rills,
Or whether, tir'd of fam'd Britannia's fogs,
Green Erin's swamps, and widely-spreading bogs;
Thou'st ta'en thy flight to fair Italian plains,
'Midst citron groves ne'er drench'd by falling rains;
Where summer suns ne'er cease to warm the soil,
And fruitful crops reward the lab'rer's toil:
Or whether, cross the broad Atlantic flown,
To ease the horrors of the rising town,
Whatever distant course thy flight pursues,
I pray thee listen to my humble Muse.
(The first weak essay of her feeble pen,
Which, urg'd by thee, shall bolder notes attain)
For lo! on yonder silken couch reclin'd,
(With beauty grac'd and loveliness of mind)
A maiden lies oppress'd with carking care,
And all the ills which its attendants are.
Those eyes that erst the morning star outshone,
Alas! how chang'd—their lustre all is gone.
The cheek, with dimpling smiles once sweetly grac'd,
Where the moss-rose it's choicest colours plac'd.
Now feels the sad effects of thy delay,
And cries, with potent voice, Oh! haste away.
For there the lily, pride of lowly vales,
Her empire holds, preserv'd by sighs and wails;
And if from thee, or some kind pitying pow'r,
Relief's not given, swift comes the last sad hour.
When her pure soul shall speed its way above,
Into the realms of purest joy and love.
Then fly, Oh, Goddess! from yon distant plains,
And use that skill, which ev'ry effort gains;
So shall thy praise be sung from morn till night,
By maids and youths, in strains for ever bright.

[*Lon. paper.*

—

Among the number of *names* one meets with in the Metropolis, that are professionally appropriate to the avocation of their owners, not the least striking are the following:—In Smithfield, a multifarious professor sports the inscription of '*Catchpole*, hair-dresser, peruke-maker, and undertaker. In Clerkenwell-green, we meet the sign-board of '*J. Grammer's* Academy.' In Dyott-street, St. Giles's, a professor of the sable robe announces his avocation by 'Chimnies swept, and night-work performed *here*, by *Timothy Brush*.' A window near Clare-market exhibits a label, inscribed '*Thomas Swift*, portering and messages performed here;' and an Hibernian lady, who keeps an *Ovarium* in High-street, St. Giles's, writes up, 'Fresh eggs every day, by me, *Catharine Cluck*;' and in High-street, in the Borough, an active agent of the law designates his residence by the words '*Grip*, Officer to the Sheriffs of Kent.'

[*Lon. paper.*

—

In his preface to his "History of the Earth," GOLDSMITH has written a paragraph, which has all the easy graces of his manner.

The ancients, Pliny, in particular, have anticipated me, in my manner of treating natural history. Like those historians, who describe the eve of a campaign, they have not condescended to give the private particulars of every individual, that formed the army. They were content with characterising the generals, and prescribing their operations, while they left it to meaner hands, to carry the muster-roll.

It has been candidly remarked by a British tourist through a portion of America that 'The English bewail the want of convenient taverns in the United States; but the complaint is groundless. For I have found taverns in the woods of America, not inferior to those of the common market-towns ni England.'

Can I again that form caress,
Or on that lip in rapture twine?
No, no! the lip that all may press,
Shall never more be press'd by mine.

Can I again that look recall,
Which once could make me die for thee?
No, no! the eye that burns on all,
Shall never more, be priz'd by me!

—

Look, in my eyes my blushing fair,
Thoul't see thyself reflected there;
And, as I gaze on thine, I see
Two little miniatures of me.

—

Press the grape and let it pour,
Around the board the purple shower;
And while the drops my goblet steep,
I'll think in woe the clusters weep.

Weep on, weep on, my pouting vine!
Heaven grant no tears, but tears of wine;
Weep on, and as thy sorrows flow,
I'll taste the luxury of woe.

A Cynical correspondent regrets that ladies who know so well how to *charm*, should not, in general, *spell* better.

—

THE NAME UNKNOWN.

Imitated from Klopstock's ode to his future

BY THOMAS CAMPBELL, ESQ. AUTHOR OF "THE PLEASURES OF HOPE."

Prophetic Pencil, wilt thou trace
A faithful image of the Face;
Or, wilt thou write the NAME UNKNOWN
Ordain'd to rule my charmed Soul,
And all my future Fate controul
Unrivall'd and alone?

Delicious Idol of my Thought!
Tho' Sylph or Spirit never taught
My boding Heart thy precious Name;
Yet, musing on my distant fate,
To CHARMS UNSEEN I consecrate
A visionary flame!

Thy rosy blush and meaning eye,
Thy virgin voice of melody,
Are ever present to my heart;
Thy murmur'd Vows shall yet be mine,
My thrilling hand shall meet with thine.
And never—never part!

Then fly, my days, on rapid wing,
Till love the viewless treasure bring;
While I, like conscious Athens, own
A power in mystic silence seal'd,
A guardian angel unreveal'd—
And bless the NameUnknown!

—

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

'Climenole' has arrived in safety, with *unviolated* seals, a very singular circumstance in the moral and entertaining history of our truly admirable, honest, and efficient government.

In answer to the curiosity of some, and the friendly care of others, we are desired by Mr. *SAUNTER* to state that the *AMERICAN LOUNGER* will shortly resume the easy exercise of his careless vocation. The temporary suspension of that paper, has been caused by the duty we owe to correspondents, of a higher character, than an idler, whose province is to be neither politic, nor grave; but whose page is desultory, and whose talk is prattle.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

SONNETS,

BY MISS BANNERMANN, NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED.

SONNET I.

* When the first beams of morn illume the sky,
" To day I see her," and I hail the sun,
" To day I see her," and the moments run,
And *life*, and *time*, and *all*, unheeded fly.

O how I grasp delusions!—form again
The frantic hopes my firmer mind denies:
I see but her in earth, in air, and skies!
I feel but her in all my burning brain!

Then, as I think upon the woes to come,
Bereav'd of comfort, how I hate the day,
Tears, from a heart of anguish, force their way,
And oft I wish to make the grave my home;
To drink the bitter cup, while yet I may,
Before my strength is gone, and all my powers decay.

SONNET II.

† Is this sad heart, so cold and vacant, mine?
Enchanting scenes, I know you now no more!
The soft stream winds beneath th' o'erhanging pine;
Ye shine in summer pride, but mine is o'er.

O could I place my woes in louring skies,
In dismal seasons, or capricious care;
In the wild whirl ambitious strife supplies,
My lighten'd heart might breathe in freest air.

Wretch that I am! this bosom once so blest,
Contains the poison which consumes its peace;
In vain I stretch my arms, and seek for rest:
Dark clouds surround, forbidding all release:
Yes! I must fill the measure of my woes,
And then I find the road that leads me to repose.

SONNET III.

‡ Where is that sentiment which warm'd my breast!
That pour'd around me torrents of delight,
That brought all Paradise before my sight,
And wrapt my soul in visions of the blest!

How often has the wandering sea-bird's flight
Across the vast, unfathomable deep,
Through living waters, and immortal light.
Borne my free spirit in its rapid sweep,

To taste beatitude where raptures flow!
O how the heart is chang'd! for blissful dreams
Of life eternal! dim before me gleams
The deep and fathomless abyss of woe;
Where, hurried headlong through the blackening wave,
Or dash'd upon the rocks, I soon must find my grave.

* As soon as I opened my window this morning, I said, " To day I shall see her," and I calmly looked on the sun. *Werter, Vol.* 1.

† Nature displays all her beauties before me, exhibits the most enchanting scenes, and my heart is unmoved. *Werter, Let.* 66.

‡ That ardent sentiment which animated my heart with the love of nature, which poured in upon me a torrent of delight, which brought all paradise before me, is now become an insupportable torment. *Werter, Let.* 41.

—

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

THE TOUT-ENSEMBLE.

You wonder what it is I find
In Nancy, that I love her,
And why I am so very blind
To many girls above her;
You tell me that her shape is bad,
Her face is reckon'd homely,
And not a feature that she had,
Could be accounted comely.

I much regret that there should be
Such different tastes between us;
She's not an angel, I agree,
Nor is she quite a Venus.

But there is something in her air,
That greatly hits my fancy,
'Tis not her face, her shape, or hair,
But 'tis the whole of Nancy.

ROWLAND.

—

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

MR. OLDSCHOOL,

I send you a copy of some lines, lately written by a friend in ill health, and from this and other causes, greatly depressed in spirits. He is now no more, and though this effusion may not, by the world, be considered to have merit, yet the contrast it exhibits, and which is drawn as it was felt, induces me to wish it preserved.

You will, however, give it a place in the Port Folio, or not, as you shall judge proper.

A. B.

The man whom heaven has blest with wealth,
With vigorous nerves and glowing health,
In life's dull round, alert and gay,
May jocund pass the hours away.
Gay frolic dreams are his at night,
And morning calls him to delight.
Ambrosial dews on zephyrs borne,
Make sweet to him the breath of morn.
'Tis for his use the verdant field
And fragrant earth their perfume yield:
The gems of Heaven more brilliant shine
On him who owns the golden mine.

His easy path of life is strew'd
With verdure gay throughout the road:
Elate, his raptur'd eyes survey
The countless pleasures in his way.
Where'er he walks, obsequious love
Attendant on his steps shall move.
Love lights his torch at Pleasure's shrine;
His golden lamp is from the mine.
From clime to clime, where'er he roam,
To him the world's a spacious home;
Delight, in all her varied charms,
Still fondly courts him to her arms.

Not so with him whom adverse fate
Pursues with unrelenting hate,
On whose devoted head is pour'd
The chastening phial of the Lord.
No morning's bloom to him is fair,
No nights, but close in sad despair;
'Tis not for him that Zephyr greets
The early morn with Flora's sweets
'Tis not for him *the cheerful note*
Of feather'd choirs in ether float,
The fragrant earth, the gems of heav'n,
Are not for his enjoyment given.

Thro' the wide world's extended Zone,
No chamber can he call his own;
Love in his walk is never found,
For poverty usurps the ground:
Love's soft and downy pinions ne'er
Can soar, if burden'd with a tear.

No pleasures call him to advance
And join the sprightly merry dance.
No glowing hopes his soul illume,
Within is dark and endless gloom;
In vain the sufferer tries to find,
Some solace for his wounded mind:

Wher'er he turns his aching eyes,
Through life's rough road, new sorrows rise.
If he has former scenes enjoy'd.
The world is now one tasteless void;
And memory's delusive dream,
Turns pleasures past to pain supreme.

Mr. OLDSCHOOL,

Twenty gentlemen, on the 26th of January, 1803, dined together, in the cottage where BURNS was born in order that they might gratefully celebrate the birth-day of the poet. The following Ballad was composed on the occasion, by the Reverend Hamilton Paul.

Let others enamour'd of seasons more gay,
Their harps to the primrose of April attune;
Let them carol the sweets of the lily rob'd May,
Or garnish their lays with the rose-buds of June.
Not the season of beauty, the prime of the year,
So charming, so lovely to me can appear,
As the day, when the *poet to Scotia so dear*,
First open'd his eyes on the *banks* of the *Doon*.

O that the lov'd bard, e'er his spirit was flown,
E'er he bade a short life of *misfortune* adieu,
Wide over my shoulders his mantle had thrown:
I'd have breath'd a strain worthy of him and of you;
But alas! cold forever's the soul kindling fire,
Mute the tongue that could captivate, ravish, inspire,
While the hands of the feeble awaken the lyre
And the muses sigh out, "*our adorers are flown.*"

Yet duly will we, as this season returns,
With joy to the lonely roof'd cottage repair;
And as we pour out a libation to *Burns*,
Will toast the sweet dames of the *Doon* and the Ayre,
And sing till each river his woodlands among,
Bid his rocks and his caverns re-echo the song,
And the winds, on their wings, waft, delighted along,
Our esteem for the *Bard*, and our love to the *Fair*.

SELECTED POETRY.

LINES

To a beautiful little Girl, of four years old, sitting in her Baby-House, surrounded by her Playthings.

BY MRS MOODY.

Little queen of infant pleasure
Smiling on thy seat of treasure;
Happy in each fancied blessing,
More than Monarchs worlds possessing,
Culling sweet from every rose,
That in thy fairy garden grows;
Thy breast as yet untaught by sighs
To check the transports as they rise.
No dread thy little bosom fills
Of physical or moral ills;
With pure delight, thy eye surveys
The splendid toys that round thee blaze;
Nor could a richer joy be thine
Did all Potosi yield her mine;
Thy tiny cup of silver, brings
A sweeter draught than cups of kings;
The doll for whom thy love prepares,
These emblems of maternal cares,
For whom this little board is spread,
For whom thou deck'd this little bed
Obedient to thy magic wand
Still eats and sleeps at thy command;
And tho' thou play'st the mother's part;
No mother's pangs corrode thy heart.
Oh! ever might thy future years
Be thus exempt from hopes and fears;
Thus, with smooth current glide away,
While beams of joy thus round thee play;
But thou a blended lot must share,
And with the blessing take the care.
Then, lovely Mary, hug thy toys,
Unsullied source of infant joys!
And, while thou can's't, the pleasure keep,
To lull thy waxen babe asleep.

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